

NOTES ON JAPANESE BIRDS CONTAINED IN THE SCIENCE COLLEGE MUSEUM, IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY, TOKYO, JAPAN.

BY

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Some time ago the Educational Museum of Tokyo was abolished and the collections turned over to the Science College of the Imperial University. Dr. I. Ijima, professor of embryology and comparative anatomy, volunteered to take care of the ornithological material, and made me the proposition to send the entire collection over in installments for identification and study. I gladly accepted the offer, and avail myself of the present opportunity to publicly express my gratitude for the kindness of Dr. Ijima and the authorities of the Science College.

The following notes are the result of an examination of the first installment, and contains, as will be seen, quite a number of interesting additions to the Japanese avifauna.

The collection sent contained a number of additional specimens, but as they added nothing to our knowledge reference to them was considered superfluous.

The numbers in parenthesis preceding the names are those of Blakiston and Pryer's "Birds of Japan."

(62) *Sterna sinensis* GM.

Two specimens (Nos. 1363 and 1364), both from Hitachi, probably collected with the following. One is a young bird with dusky bill and feet, the other (1363) an adult in full plumage.

Sterna dougalli MONTAG.

The claim of this species to a place in the Japanese fauna rests upon a single specimen in the Pryer collection from the Liukiu Islands (Seebohm, *Ibis*, 1887, p. 181). It is, therefore, interesting to find a specimen from Hitachi in the Science College collection (No. 1362). It is just completing the black hood and is in splendid condition, except that the collector has cut off the wings and sewed on those of a *Sterna sinensis*, a combination which at first staggered me, as the job was very neatly done! The bill of this specimen is red, with dusky tips, and not nearly as thick as in Seebohm's figure (*B. Jap. Emp.*, p. 296).

(63) *Sterna camtschatica* PALL.

Records of this species from Japan are not numerous. The present collection contains three specimens, one adult (471) from Nanaura, Boshu, province of Awa, and two young (472 and 478), the former from the same locality, October 9, 1883, the latter from the province of Shimosa, November 1, 1883. These are identical with Kamtschatkan specimens in corresponding plumage, though the tarsus is somewhat shorter. The U. S. National Museum possesses a fine adult male (No. 85783), collected by Mr. Jouy on May 9, 1881, at Tomiyoka Point, near Yokohama.

Sterna bergii LICHT., subsp.?

No. 1180 is another male of this form obtained October, 1889, by Mr. Nishi in the Yayeyama Islands. It is somewhat smaller than the first specimen described by me (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, p. 393), but apparently otherwise similar.

The question raised (*loc. cit.*) as to the correct subspecific name of this form has not been answered as yet.

(83) *Puffinus tenuirostris* (TEMM.).

A specimen collected by Mr. Ota in the province of Owari, Hondo (No. "BB"), deserves to be mentioned in addition to the other Japanese specimens already on record.

Æstrelata leucoptera (GOULD).

In regard to this interesting addition to the Japanese fauna Dr. Ijima writes me that it was caught in the province of Mino, after a storm, in 1885.

This is the species often referred to as *Æ. desolata* (GM.), but although it is Kuhl's *Procellaria desolata* it is not the bird so named by Gmelin, which is *Halibana desolata*. It is referred to as doubtfully occurring in Kamtschatka in my List of the Birds of Kamtschatka (Res. Orn, Expl. Kamtsch. Command. IIs. 1885, p. 316).

Æ. leucoptera is a smaller species, but otherwise much like Salvin's *Æ. phœopyga*.

Bulweria bulweri (JARD. & SELBY).

A specimen of this species, which has only recently been found in the Pacific (Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1890, p. 380), was captured at Nikko, as Dr. Ijima writes, probably driven inland by a storm. He adds: "I have another very bad specimen which was picked up on the shore of Sulphur Island." Mr. Holst, who collected for Mr. Seebohm, found it very common on Sulphur Island, where it may possibly breed (Ibis, 1891, p. 192).

Glareola orientalis LEACH.

Specimen No. 1166, ♀, collected by Dr. Ijima in the province of Hitachi, adds not only a new species but a whole family to the Japanese

avifauna. Total length and stretch of wing as measured by Dr. Ijima were 210 and 540 millimetres respectively.

Further account of the capture would be highly interesting, especially whether it was found alone or in company with others of the same species.

(104½) *Tringa canutus* L.

No. 306, a young bird, is from Tokio, without further information.

Tringa ferruginea BRÜNN.

From the fact that this species (also known as *T. subarquata*) has been recorded from the Tchukchi peninsula, it was to be expected that it would turn up, occasionally at least, in Japan during the migrations, though, on the other hand, the circumstance that it had hitherto not been observed, neither in Kamtschatka nor in Japan, makes it safe to conclude that its regular migration route does not lie so far east.

Two specimens (Nos. 298 and 293), both from Giotoku, prove that it occurs both on the spring migration and in the autumn, and from the superficial resemblance to *T. alpina pacifica* (*T. cinclus*) it is probably often mistaken for the latter. The first one is a fine adult male in splendid summer plumage, collected May 23, 1884; the other is a young bird in the first fall plumage, obtained September 20, 1883.

T. ferruginea is easily distinguished from *T. alpina* by the bill being much narrower at the tip, by the white upper tail-coverts, and, in the summer plumage, by having the under surface rusty or chestnut, while in *T. alpina* these parts in summer are white with a large patch of blackish on the belly.

(108) *Tringa acuminata* (HORSF.).

No. 291, ♂ ad., collected at Horiye, province of Musashi, Hondo, July 27, 1883, is particularly interesting inasmuch as it is in full breeding plumage considerably abraded. In this plumage, the first I have ever seen, the bird looks very different from the winter plumage in which it is usually found. The under parts are much more densely spotted, and the yellow tinge of the fore neck is more ochraceous, while the broad rusty edges of the feathers on the upper parts are nearly gone.

The breeding grounds of this species have not yet been ascertained with certainty,* and although the occurrence of this bird in the plumage here described in Japan on July 27 would seem to indicate that it may breed there, at least occasionally, yet it is well known that non-breeding individuals of many waders remain during summer in a much more southern latitude than the regular breeding grounds.

Seebohm (Distr. Charadr., p. 442) refers Latham's *Tringa aurita* to the present species without even a query, but Latham's description

* See Palmén, Vega Exp. Vet. Iaktt., v, 1887, p. 322.

does in no particular fit *T. acuminata*, and the name may safely be dropped from the synonymy.

(109) *Limicola platyrincha* (TEMML.).

Two specimens, Nos. 271 and 274, ♂ and ♀, were collected in 1883 at Giotoku. They agree in every respect with the specimen now in the U. S. National Museum (95955) collected by Captain Blakiston at Hakodate, in August.

(110) *Calidris arenaria* (L.).

A ♀ specimen (No. 290), from Shimosa, purchased in the flesh February, 1889, deserves mention, as the Sanderling is a comparatively rare bird in Japan.

(111) *Pavoncella pugnax* (L.).

The Ruff is sufficiently rare in Japan to justify the record here of a specimen ("CC") belonging to Mr. Ota, which was collected in the province of Owari, Hondo. Two others were also sent, belonging to the Science College Museum, viz, Nos. 332 and 333, both males, collected on October 13, the former an adult in winter plumage, at Horiye, province of Musashi, the latter a bird of the year, at Giotoku, province of Shimosa, Hondo. The last mentioned two specimens are referred to by Seebohm (*Ibis*, 1885, p. 364).

(112) *Phalaropus lobatus* (L.).

One specimen ("B"), adult, was shot by Mr. Kanai, on the shore of Lake Suwa, province of Shinano, May 17, 1889, out of a flock of sixteen. The other (No. 1358) is a young female, obtained from Mr. F. Sakamoto, in the flesh, September 27, 1890, from the province of Shimosa.

(113) *Crymophilus fulcarius* (L.).

"It has not yet been recorded from Japan proper." Specimen "DD," a winter adult, belonging to Mr. Ota, deserves therefore special mention, it having been collected in the province of Owari, Hondo.

Phaëthon rubricauda BODD.

The only record of this species on Japanese territory is the bunch of tail feathers from Bouin, in the Tokyo Museum, and the birds seen by Holst on the island San Alessandro, 40 miles north of Sulphur Island (Seebohm, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 192). I have now before me a young specimen (Science Coll. Mus. No. 481) "captured after a storm, in 1885, in the province of Mino."

Tropic Birds can not be scarce in the seas about Japan. In Beechy's voyage of the "Blossom" it is stated (I, p. 236) that "the tropic birds accompanied us as far as 36° N.," and v. Martens (*Preuss. Exp. Ost.-As., Zool.*, 1, p. 59) speaks of seeing them on September 10, in latitude 31°.

Phaëthon candidus (DRAP.).

Another addition to the fauna. A young specimen of this species (also known as *Ph. flavirostris*) is in Mr. Ota's collection (No. "AA"), and was collected in the province of Kaga, on the Sea of Japan.

In the handbooks the three species of this genus are distinguished by characters somewhat difficult to grasp and apply. I have found a set of characters easy to recognize, by which the three species can be distinguished without the slightest difficulty in all their plumages, as follows:

- a*¹. Outer web of outer primaries white.....*Ph. rubricauda*.
*a*². Outer web of outer primaries black.
 *b*¹. Outer primary coverts white.....*Ph. candidus*.
 *b*². Outer primary coverts black.....*Ph. athereus*.

Ardea purpurea L.

In my review of the Japanese Herodii (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887 pp. 310, 311), I gave the characters of the present bird, "there being a probability that the Purple Heron may occasionally occur in Japanese territory." I am now gratified by having before me a fine adult male, collected by Mr. Nishi on the Yayeyama Island, April, 1889.

A careful comparison of this specimen (Se. Coll. Mus. No. 1169) with the material discussed in the above mentioned paper only corroborates the distinction there pointed out between the eastern and the western birds in so far as the Yayeyama bird has the median series of black spots on the fore-neck but slightly developed; at the same time the abdomen and under tail-coverts are as black as in the Pegu bird. As for size it compares well with the largest of the European birds. The differences may turn out to be of some consequence, but the material is entirely too scanty to even allow the expression of a preliminary opinion. The Japanese individual presents the peculiarity of the median stripe on the upper hind neck being brown, not black.

Dr. Ijima writes me as follows:

Another specimen in our collection is much grayer above and darker below, there being less brown. Mr. Nishi tells me that it is abundant on Yayeyama Island.

In the paper referred to I characterized the genus *Ardea* as having the "naked portion of tibia longer than inner toe, without claw." This is certainly not the case in the present species and the synopsis (*op. cit.* p. 287) will have to be remodeled.*

(165) *Cuculus kelungensis* SWINH.

Four adults and one young bird from various places in Hondo.

Our knowledge of the eastern cuckoos is as yet only very imperfect,

* Mr. J. H. Gurney, jr., writes to Mr. R. Ridgway that among his father's Peregrine Falcons he found two specimens from the Kurile Islands, which are young birds and very dark all over, especially on the breast, belly, and under the wings. "They are far the darkest we have, and are evidently your *Falco pealei*." This is a very interesting addition to the fauna.

and I am sorry to say that Mr. Seeböhm's treatment of the three forms known to occur in Japan (B. Jap. Emp., pp. 169-171) has only added to the confusion.

In the first place he says of Japanese examples of *C. canorus* (which I consider subspecifically distinct from the European Common Cuckoo under the name of *C. telephonus*) that they completely intergrade with the "Himalayan Cuckoo" (*C. kelungensis*) in size, and that it is not known that they differ in any way in color, except that in the adult Common Cuckoo there is no tendency for the tail to darken near the tip, and in the rufous stage there are no bars across the rump. The "Himalayan Cuckoo" again, he states to be "a small form of the Common Cuckoo, but having a totally different note it is regarded as specifically distinct. The tail has a slight tendency to darken towards the tip, and in the rufous stage the rump is barred." Now, as a matter of fact, these statements, in so far as they refer to the similarities of the two forms, do not hold good. The size of the two do not only intergrade, but they are practically alike in size. It is in color, however, that the difference is marked. It is so far from that "it is not known that they differ in any way in color," that they are known to differ in the following points:

(1) Upper surface in *C. kelungensis* (Japanese specimens) are darker and more plumbeous (bluish); (2) ground color of under surface is always more buffy, particularly the under tail-coverts; (3) dark cross-bars underneath are very much blacker, broader, and more distant than in the Japanese form of the Common Cuckoo; (4) the markings on the under wing-coverts are essentially different, the greater part of the lining of the wing in *C. kelungensis* being nearly uniform, against very narrowly and distinctly cross-banded in *C. telephonus*.

On the whole, there should be no difficulty in distinguishing these two forms, though in forms so alike superficially it may require a careful study and a large material to first point out the differences. I am inclined to think that the statements of Mr. Seeböhm here criticised are due to the fact that he has not properly separated the two forms. A proof of this is before me consisting of the two skins (Blak. Nos. 2710 and 2711), which in 1884 (*Ibis*, 1884, p. 36) Mr. Seeböhm referred to "*Cuculus himalayanus*," though in reality only No. 2710 belongs to the species he so designates (*C. kelungensis*), while No. 2711 is a specimen of the "Common Cuckoo" (*C. telephonus*).

(164) *Cuculus tamsuicus* SWINH.

An adult male (No. 1117) is from the Yagurasawa village, province of Sagami.

This species looks almost like a miniature *C. kelungensis*, but differs, besides in size, also in the coloration of the upper surface, which is more olive-gray, while in the large species it is plumbeous and darker.

The name adopted by me for the smallest of the Japan cuckoos is

possibly only a temporary one, but it is the only appellation which at present I know to be pertinent. Whether the Indian bird usually called *C. poliocephalus* really is identical with the Japanese one is a question I am not prepared to answer for want of material for comparison, but I do know that Latham's description is entirely inapplicable to the present bird,* and that the name given by him consequently must be rejected according to all accepted rules of nomenclature.

Halcyon pileata (BODD.).

Dr. Ijima writes me that the Science College Museum has recently obtained, through Mr. Ota, a specimen of this beautiful kingfisher captured in the province of Suruga, a most interesting addition to the fauna. He adds that in the old Japanese manuscripts on ornithology he finds the "description of a kingfisher larger than the common species, but resembling it and very beautiful, and said to be common in the valleys of the provinces of Hiuga and Bingo, though not found north of Hakone." He has no doubt that *H. pileata* is meant and not *H. coromanda*, as the latter is also described.

(167) *Dryobates japonicus* (SEEB.).

No. 1089 is a young male, from the province of Suruga, Hondo, a little older than U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 88704 (the young female described by me in Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, p. 112), which it resembles very closely except that the whole crown has the feathers broadly tipped with scarlet, the black patch on the sides of neck in continuation of the malar stripe is larger and more solid black, and the spots and bars on the sides of breast and flanks less pronounced.

(172) *Picus canus jessoensis* STEJN.

No. 1438, locality unknown, is a very young specimen in the first plumage. It is similar to the adult female, but with the top of head and upper neck duller, and the light markings on wings and tail larger and more pronounced; underside from breast backwards strongly cross-marked with dusky.

(230½) *Motacilla flava leucostriata* (HOM.).

A young specimen (No. 1378) was collected by Mr. Tsuchida at Dokanyama, near Tokyo, on November 3, 1890. It is the first occurrence of this species in any of the islands of Japan proper.

(263½) *Turdus hortulorum* SCL.

By an examination of the specimen in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, as well as the original records in the U. S. National Museum of the specimens brought home by the

* "Tail almost even at the end; white, crossed with equidistant dusky bars; legs pale brown." (Suppl., I, p. 102.)

“Perry Expedition to Japan,” I feel convinced that the specimen referred to by Mr. Seeböhm (P. Z. S., 1879, p. 805; B. & P., Tr. As. Soc. Jap., x, 1882, p. 166) did not come from Japan.

The species will have to be retained, however, in the Japanese fauna on the strength of a specimen in the Science College Museum (No. 1365), which was collected in the province of Kaga, Hondo. It is a fully adult female (not sexed on label) in very good condition.

The brackets inclosing the reference to the present species in my synopsis of the Japanese species of the genus *Turdus* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, p. 4) can now be removed.

(235) *Cisticola brunniceps* (T. & S.).

A winter specimen from Nagoya, Hondo (No. “D”), bears out fully what I have already remarked about this species (Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, p. 407). I have found the wing of a remarkably uniform size in all the Japanese specimens measured by me, and the present one makes no exception: wing 55 millimetres, tail feathers 54 millimetres.

Emberiza leucocephala Gm.

Mr. Nozawa has added one of the most interesting novelties to the Japanese avifauna by collecting a splendid pair of this fine bird, which were shot out of a small flock at Sapporo, Yezo, on January 30, 1890. The ♀ is No 1188 of the Science College Museum; the ♂ is designated as No. “A.”

The present species, which occurs all through Siberia, has no yellow anywhere, and, like *E. rustica*, has the rump cinnamon-rufous without black streaks, being easily distinguished, however, in all plumages by its large size (wing more than 85 millimetres); the male is a very striking looking bird, with the fore-neck and eye-region beautiful chestnut and the cheeks silky white.

Emberiza pusilla PALL.

This addition is to be credited to Mr. Ota, who, in his collection, has a specimen collected at Nagoya, Owari, Hondo. It is marked “F,” but the label contains no other information. Further details regarding the capture of this interesting specimen are desirable. The bird is a young male, or an adult female, in spring plumage.

This is another Siberian species. As the name implies, it is very small (wing of present specimen 67 millimetres). The rump is dark clay colored, somewhat streaked with dark brown; the upper lesser wing-coverts are edged with drab; culmen straight; no yellow anywhere.

(277) *Emberiza yessoensis* SWINH.

There are three specimens in this collection; one, No. “E,” belonging to Mr. Ota, collected at Nagoya, Owari; another adult (♂) in fine plumage, collected by Dr. Ijima near Tokyo, November 22, 1890 (Sc. Coll. No. 1384); and finally a young male (No. 1377), collected at Waseda, Tokyo, by Mr. Makino, about the middle of October, 1890.

The young plumage of this species has not yet been described, and a few remarks on the present specimen may therefore be welcome. It is in transition from the young to the adult stage, and shows the former to differ very materially from the latter: Superciliary stripe, chin, and entire throat pale straw color; top of head, hind neck, and rump pale ochraceous; shoulder feathers cinnamon-chestnut; whole under side pale straw yellow with a strong suffusion of vinaceous-cinnamon on breast and sides; a few dusky dots on fore-neck; upper back striped with black, bay, and pale ochraceous; the cinnamon-rufous feathers of the adult plumage appear on lower back; greater and lesser upper wing coverts dark drab gray with broad pale ochraceous margins.

(287) *Acanthis linaria holboelii* (BRM.).

Like all the other Japanese specimens of Redpolls which I have seen the two males before me (Sc. Coll. Mus. Nos. 1375 and 1376) belong to the long-billed coast form. Collectors in the northern island should be on the lookout in winter for the short-billed white-rumped *A. exilipes*.

(280) *Fringilla montifringilla* L.

A ♂ of this species from Nagoya is interesting because partly albinistic. Chin and throat are abruptly pure white, while the rest of the plumage appears to be normal.

I have not enumerated the following three species with the rest, because there is reason to believe that they should not be included in the Japanese fauna upon the evidence furnished by the specimens treated of.

Erithacus sibilans (SWINH.).

Dr. Ijima informs me that the specimen sent (No. 789) was purchased December 7, 1887, probably from a dealer in cage birds. He adds that its Japanese name is *Shima-goma*, and that some of the dealers in whose shops the species is often found insist that it is a native bird found at Nikko and other places.

This is a rare species, hitherto only found on the mainland, and its occurrence in Japan needs confirmation, though not improbable, as it has been taken in Korea. It may be recognized by its russet tail and whitish under parts, with the feathers on throat and breast margined with dusky, giving these parts a scaly appearance.

Lanius sphenocercus CAB.

Dr. Ijima sends a good specimen of this fine bird (No. 1000), accompanied by the following remarks:

This specimen was purchased by me November, 1889, as skin from a bird dealer. He assured me that it had been collected near Kobe (February 11, 1889), but full

reliance can not be placed in his statement, though I see no reason why such a bird should have been imported to Japan either as skin or in the living state.

As this species is found in Korea, its occasional occurrence in Japan is not improbable, though additional evidence is necessary to establish it as an undoubted member of the fauna.

Munia atricapilla (VIEILL.).

A specimen (No. "G") is among the birds sent, but it evidently either introduced or perhaps only an escaped cage bird. However, Dr. Ijima writes in regard to it as follows:

A pair of this species was captured in the vicinity of Lake Suwa, in the province of Shinano, August, 1885. One escaped, and the other died after a few days' captivity. The latter was skinned by Mr. Kanai, and is the bird marked "G." I can not entirely suppress a doubt that the specimen is an escaped cage bird. Mr. Kanai, however, tells me that this year another specimen was obtained in the same locality.

It may be that the specimens in question are part of a colony originating from escaped cage birds.

The bird before me has the entire head and neck deep black with a greenish gloss; upper parts pale cinnamon-chestnut, deepening into burnt Sienna on the rump and upper tail-coverts; tail above edged with dull rufous orange; under parts bright chestnut-bay gradually darkening into blackish on middle of abdomen and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts cream color, the larger and median series dull cinnamon-rufous.